MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY 18, 1937.

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1937, was held in its office in the Navy Department Building on February 18, 1937. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Clarke,
Mr. Savage,
Mr. Borie,
Mr. Shepley,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Manship,
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting held January 29, were approved as amended with respect to paragraph 7 on the subject of the National Gallery of Art.

2. LANE MEMORIAL FLAGPOLE: Dr. Adolph Miller and Franklin K. (Ned) Lane, in company with Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director of the National Park Service, conferred with the Commission as to the location for the proposed flagpole to commemorate the late Hon. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior. Dr. Miller said that about two and a half years ago the question was discussed informally with members of the Commission and at that time Hains Point was selected for the location of the flagpole and Mr. Pope was designated to design it. The Commission generally endorsed the scheme for a flagpole 160 feet high, at a meeting held in May 1936. It was understood, however, that the approval of Congress would have to be secured and a draft of legislation was agreed upon, which, however, did not definitely state a location for the memorial.

In the meantime, however, the Army Air Corps has objected to having a flagpole erected at Hains Point as they say it would interfere with flying.

Also it was reported that it would be necessary to place the foundation on piles at enormous cost.

The question of foundation was recently investigated again by representatives of the National Park Service, who have submitted a report that proper foundations for the flagpole at Hains Point would cost only $7,500. The report is as follows:

February 16, 1937.

Memorandum for
THE DIRECTOR

Subject: Memorial Franklin K. Lane,
Hains Point

The question of locating the above memorial at the point indicated has been carefully investigated and I have to report that it will be entirely feasible to place the memorial at the south end of East Potomac Park on a suitable foundation, the cost of which will not exceed $7,500.

In arriving at a solution for the foundations to support this memorial the experience of the office in connection with the foundations for the two wings of the Field House in East Potomac Park, the foundation of the Navy-Marine Memorial on Columbia Island, and the foundation of the Tea House at Hains Point within 200 feet of the proposed location of this memorial was used as a basis for the conclusion noted. The foundation for the Tea House was constructed in 1923, and although it has settled, it has not settled out of level and bears the same relation to the adjacent park area as when erected.

If the foundation for the Lane Memorial is designed as a reinforced concrete slab, stiffened by concrete ribs, the whole memorial may settle a little but it is not probable that it will settle out of level. But in case it does settle more on one side than on the other, simple means of plumbing the flagpole could be incorporated in the design of the foundations which would keep the pole in a vertical position at all times and the architectural base and setting in the same relative position to the surrounding grounds as it was when erected.

The indicated amount of money available for the memorial would provide for the memorial and for the improvements of the park area as indicated.

The Adjutant General of the War Department entered a formal protest on July 8, 1936, against the erection of a flagstaff at Hains Point, claiming that it would constitute a hazard to airplanes operating from Bolling Field.

cc-Taylor
Cammerer-Fine Arts
Finnan
Nolen
Kirkpatrick
Vint

F. F. Gillen,
Chief, Construction Section.

The Commission considered the matter in connection with the proper development of Potomac Park. Mr. Clarke said the tea house should not have been placed on the axis of the park facing the point but rather at the side among trees. The vista should have been kept open--marked possibly only by a suitable flagpole. So far as interfering with the landing and taking off of airplanes, this brought up the subject of a suitable airport for the city and it was generally agreed by the members of the Commission that it would be better to locate the airport some miles away from the city just as in a number of other large cities of the country instead of so close to Washington as Bolling Field and the Washington Airport.

Dr. Miller wanted suggestions as to the height of the flagpole he should insist upon when in conference with the Air Corps officials. Attention was called to the flagpoles at St. Marks, which are 80 feet high and of wood. It was noted that a flagpole 70-80 feet high at Hains Point would not be high enough because the trees in that locality reach that height. Dr. Miller was advised that he should insist on a flagpole at least 120 feet high.

Mr. Clarke presented the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Borie and adopted by the Commission:

> Moved: That the Commission approves of a suitable memorial in the form of a monumental flagpole to the Hon. Franklin K. Lane, to be erected in the District of Columbia at Hains Point in such a manner as to be an integral part of the immediate composition of that portion of the park design.

In reponse to his inquiry, Dr. Miller was informed that there was no objection on the part of the Commission of Fine Arts to having the memorial flagpole lighted if located there.

3. RESTAURANT, MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE AND NORTH CAPITOL STREET: The Inspector of Buildings having submitted plans for a proposed restaurant at Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street, Application No. 620, designed by Mr. E. Burton Corning, architect, of Washington, they were sent to Mr. Borie for further criticism. The plans had been submitted by Mr. Corning at a meeting on October 23, 1936, at which time the general scheme was approved. It was pointed out that while the building is not monumental in design it is to serve a temporary purpose since the grounds have been leased for a period of only 10 years.

The Commission again inspected the plans and interposed no objection to having the building erected at this location. The Building Inspector was informed of this. Attention is to be given to the landscape treatment after the building is erected.

4. CARVING SCULPTOR'S NAME ON TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER: Under date of February 15, 1937, the following letter was received from Mr. Thomas H. Jones with model:

February 15, 1937.

The Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am enclosing a plaster model showing the size and depth of the name to be placed on the background of the relief on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Perhaps the lower right hand corner in back of the man's foot.

Very sincerely,
(Signed) Thomas H. Jones.

9 Macdougal Alley,
New York City.

Mr. Manship inspected the model and said that he considered it satisfactory. Accordingly the Commission interposed no objection to having Mr. Jones's name carved on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, with the understanding that this will meet with the approval of the Secretary of War as representing the Arlington Amphitheater Commission. A report was sent to Mr. Jones. (Exhibit A)

5. LIGHTING SECOND DIVISION MEMORIAL: Under date of February 11, 1937, the following letter was received from Mr. E. S. Colling, representing Major General Harbord, in regard to lighting the Second Division Memorial:

February 11, 1937.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I am happy to send you at this time the lighting recommendations made by the General Electric Company for the proposed flood lighting of the Second Division Monument. These plans were discussed a few days ago with Mr. J. E. Fraser, who approved them with one suggested change, namely, that the light in the tree on the right as you face the Monument should be so shielded that the illuminating extends only as far as the arch. You will note Mr. Fraser's pencilled notes.

Mr. Fraser said that he would write to the Commission, giving his endorsement on the proposed lighting and I presume that you have heard from him by this time.

I shall be in Washington on Thursday, the 18th, and if by that date it is at all possible, I would like very much to get an official

approval by the Commission so that I can place it with Mr. Finnan of the Parks Commission. I will then be able to get prices and make arrangements for installation and thus clean up the entire matter while I am in Washington next week.

Hoping that the plan will be satisfactory to the Commission and thanking you for any efforts you can make to expedite its approval, I am

With best regards,
(Signed) E. S. Colling.

Mr. Colling accompanied by Brig. General Matthews, President of the Second Division Memorial Association, conferred with the Commission about the matter. The Secretary presented the plans submitted by Mr. Colling as also a letter from Mr. Fraser endorsing the scheme. (Exhibit B) Mr. Colling said there is a strong desire on the part of the members of the Second Division Memorial Association to have the memorial lighted. He said they are very proud of the memorial and want it visible not only during the day but also at night. At present the location is dark. He said the scheme worked out by the General Electric Company is satisfactory to them. He called attention to the fact that the statue in the Lincoln Memorial is lighted as also the John Paul Jones Monument and the fountain north of the Capitol. Mr. Finnan said the John Paul Jones is lighted because a number of accidents have occurred there.

After Mr. Colling and General Matthews had presented the scheme, they withdrew and the Commission considered the project. Mr. Clarke strongly protested against the installation of the lighting scheme as it would establish a very bad precedent. He said the First Division Memorial Association would undoubtedly desire to have their memorial lighted and there certainly would be others. Mr. Finnan was asked about the condition of the lighting facilities in the vicinity of the Second Division Memorial. A report was sent to Mr. Colling. (Exhibit C)

6. TEXAS CENTENNIAL MONUMENTS: Mr. W. B. Yeager, Secretary of the Texas Centennial Commission, submitted a letter dated February 15, 1937, giving a list of sculptors from which a group is to be finally selected for producing historical monuments in Texas. The letter was referred to Mr. Manship for his recommendations. Mr. Yeager expressed the desire that several sculptors of Texas be included in the list as the Texas people are interested in their local talent.

7. IMPROVEMENT OF THE WASHINGTON CHANNEL: Major Walter D. Luplow, District Engineer of the War Department, in charge of the Washington area, in company with Lieut. W. J. Matteson, E. A. Schmitt, engineer, and others of their office appeared before the Commission to present plans for improving the water front along the Washington Channel. Mr. Cheney, the architect, explained the plans, stating that it was the desire of the Office of Engineers to have the views of the Commission before they proceed with the architectural details; to make changes now before the work is started.

There will be about 12 buildings consisting of steamboat offices, fire and police stations, recreation wharf, etc., but none of them will be connected. There will be 100 feet of grass space between them. The fish market remains; also the Yacht Club and the Armory. The waterfront along Washington Channel is very unattractive and Congress has enacted legislation to clean it up and make it orderly. Mr. Cheney indicated the uses to which the piers will be put, as the excursion boat pier, fire department pier, Occoquan Reformatory wharf, the Norfolk and Washington Steamboat wharf, etc. Headhouses have been designed to go at the ends of the wharfs, which will be used for various purposes. The headhouse on one pier will have an elevator for raising and lowering small boats; and also a show room for boats. Once the project is finished it will be turned over to the District Commissioners for administration.

The question was asked whether boats would dock alongside or at the ends of the piers, and Mr. Cheney said the purpose is to keep the channel clear by having all boats dock alongside. Later on there will be a boulevard in front of the wharf street entrances. There will be a railing along the bank for a safeguard.

Mr. Cheney said they have selected the colonial style of architecture because the fish market has a rather decided colonial flavor; the adjoining Capitol Yacht Club has that motif and further down the Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Co., the War College and barracks are colonial. The Commission favored the colonial style for these new buildings.

Mr. Moore pointed out that they have two fronts to the buildings on the wharfs--facing the street and facing the water. He felt they should have porches so that people can look out over the river. There will be a concrete retaining wall, but the wooden piling will not be visible to the public. The architect members of the Commission made several changes in the designs. Complete designs will be submitted later. In general the Commission approved the scheme.

8. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TABLETS AND MARKERS: Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director of the National Park Service, submitted a number of designs for tablets and markers. These designs were explained by several representatives of his office who had worked on the scheme, using as a guide two books on lettering that were sent to the National Park Service by Mr. Borie, entitled "The Design of Lettering" by Egan Weiss, published by Pencil Points Press, New York, 1932, and "A Hand Book of Modern Alphabet" by Percy J. Smith, Oxford University Press, 1936.

One design presented was for a tablet to be erected in Illinois on a building in which one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates took place. The design for

this tablet was generally approved with the understanding that there is to be no border on the tablet.

Another design was submitted of a tablet to be placed on Arlington House. Also a design was submitted for a tablet to be placed on the house in which Abraham Lincoln died. The Commission decided that the lettering on these tablets should be studied, using the books above mentioned; also the title, "Department of the Interior, National Park Service", should be at the bottom of a tablet or marker rather than at the top. Revised designs will be submitted.

9. NEW ROCHELLE MEMORIAL COIN: Miss Gertrude K. Lathrop, submitted photographs of the model for the reverse of the New Rochelle Memorial Coin. The main motive of the reverse was a representation of the fleur-de-lis of France. The photograph was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Manship, who stated that he had seen the model and considered it satisfactory. The model was accordingly approved by the Commission on the basis of the photograph submitted. A letter approving the models of the New Rochelle Memorial Coin was sent to the office of the Director of the Mint. (Exhibit D)

10. NURSES MEMORIAL: Under date of February 17, 1937, the following letter was received from Major Julia C. Stimson, Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, War Department, requesting the advice of the Commission as to an appropriate memorial to the nurses of the Army and Navy in Arlington Cemetery:

February 17, 1937.

The Fine Arts Commission,
Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

The offices of the Army Nurse Corps and the Navy Nurse Corps would like some suggestions and information about a project they have in mind.

There is in Arlington National Cemetery a pointed plot ending on McPherson Avenue between Porter and Lawton Avenues, which has been designated "Spanish War Army & Navy Nurses". The pointed end of this plot is used for nurses who served in the Spanish-American War and has on it a large rough granite boulder, upon which has been cut the insignia of the Spanish-American War nurses.

The Army and Navy nurses wish to have placed in the larger section of the plot which extends down toward Memorial Avenue and is reserved for Army and Navy nurses, some kind of a stone or monument which will show that this part of the cemetery is dedicated to Army and Navy nurses. There is on the plot a rounded knoll 36 feet south of the Sampson tomb which has been picked out as a suitable place for the stone. The Quartermaster General has approved the erection of some suitable monument on this spot.

Without making a concerted effort to collect funds the committee in charge of the matter already has in hand about $2500., which has been growing slowly for about six years. It is desired now to increase the fund and to make progress with the plan. Before doing so, however, it is necessary to have in mind a fairly definite objective towards which to work as far as finances are concerned.

It is not the idea of the committee and of those who have already contributed to the fund to erect a memorial to nurses on this site, because the memorial to nurses who died in the World War, which was designed by Dr. McKenzie and was placed in the garden behind the National American Red Cross Building is thoroughly satisfactory for that purpose. The main idea is to have some kind of a simple but impressive indication or marker in a stone showing that the place where it is erected is dedicated to former members of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps. The Committee will be grateful, therefore, for an estimate of how much money would be necessary for such a purpose and for suggestions as to its form.

It is believed that to endeavor to raise a large sum of money for this purpose would be difficult and, moreover, that it would not be considered suitable to try to do so. To be specific, therefore, is it the opinion of the Commission that our purpose could be accomplished with a fund not to exceed $5,000.?

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Julia C. Stimson,
Major, Army Nurse Corps,
Superintendent.

The letter was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Manship for his recommendations.

The Commission adjourned at 5:00 p. m. The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Mr. David Finley and Mr. Donald D. Shepard, Attorneys for Mr. Mellon. After the luncheon Mr. Finley and Mr. Shepard took the Commission to the Corcoran Gallery of Art to show them some 20 of the paintings which Mr. Mellon secured from the Hermitage Gallery in Leningrad. These paintings are in a private room in the Corcoran.

Also the Commission had the pleasure of accompanying Dr. Connor on a tour through the National Archives Building, during which tour he explained the latest methods of preserving archives.

In the evening a dinner was given at the Mayflower in honor of Mr. Moore by the Washington Society of Fine Arts, which the members of the Commission attended, as also Mr. Adams, Mr. Winter, Mr. Weinman, Mr. Swartwout and Mr. Cross.

C O P Y

February 19, 1937.

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on February 18, 1937, inspected the plaster model which you submitted with your letter of February 15, showing the size and depth of your name to be placed on the background of the relief on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The model was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Paul Manship, sculptor member of the Commission, who approves the model. The Commission of Fine Arts interpose no objection to your name being placed on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Thomas Hudson Jones,
9 Macdougal Alley,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT A

ELEVEN O'CLOCK ROADS
WESTPORT, CONN

February 4,1937.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Caemmerer;

I have just had a talk with General Harbord's committee with regard to lighting the Second Division monument.

As you know, I have disapproved the lighting of monuments in the past, principally because they were cut out and seemed like wedding cakes, leaving a brilliant spot in the landscape which was out of key with all the surroundings. But I was rather surprised and pleased with the way they propose lighting the Second Division monument.

Their idea is to use a light which would be not much stronger than a street light, but which would throw a warm glow over the monument, and I believe they have arranged a scheme which will obtain that effect.

They feel they can change the strength of the bulbs so the effect will be just what they desire. Under these conditions it would not be unpleasant to have the monument lighted at night.

I have also told them I was more concerned with the planting than with the lighting, and told them of Major Clarke's suggestions. They are to see him and find out what is required.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

March 3, 1937.

Dear Mr. Colling:

At their meeting on February 18, 1937, the Commission of Fine Arts gave careful consideration to the plan you presented in company with Brigadier General Hugh Matthews, President of the Second Division Memorial Association, for lighting the Second Division Memorial.

After discussion the members of the Commission were unanimous in their opinion that the Second Division Memorial could be lighted adequately by an arrangement of the regular street lights. The Commission are opposed to establishing a precedent which would have to be followed throughout the city. The Commission was opposed to a light in front of the John Paul Jones statue, and consented only as a matter of safety, after a number of accidents had occurred at that point. The plans for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial will call for the relocation of this statue.

The street lighting as it exists at present along Constitution Avenue is only temporary. The regular lighting scheme for Constitution Avenue provides for globes twice the size of the present ones and a double light lamp standard. This will increase the lighting on Constitution Avenue four fold. Likewise the lighting in the Ellipse can be improved.

The lamp standards between Fifteenth and Seventeenth Streets, along Constitution Avenue, will be re-spaced so as to provide much better lighting of the Second Division Memorial than at present, and it is understood that this improved lighting scheme will be carried out in the near future. The Commission are of the opinion, therefore, that proper illumination of the Second Division Memorial will thus be provided.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. E. S. Colling,
Radio Corporation of America,
30 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

February 19, 1937.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on February 18, 1937, approved the models by Gertrude K. Lathrop, sculptor, of Albany, New York, for both obverse and reverse of the New Rochelle Coin. The models had been brought to the particular attention of Mr. Paul Manship, sculptor member of the Commission. Photographs of the models are enclosed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. M. M. O'Reilly,
Assistant Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D